groups of children including girls and children of weaker sections. Measures are also being undertaken to strengthen the accountability of the schools system towards parents and the community. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme that provides' a cooked meal to all children of primary schools and alternative education centres has also helped in checking dropout rates.

Dropout of students

† 419. DR. MURU MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 31 per cent of students upto V standard, 50 percent of students upto Vill standard and 63 per cent of students upto X standard leave their studies incomplete in the schools;

(b) rf so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the number of students who leave their studies even before completing their XII standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In 2003-04, at the national level, the dropout rate is 31.5% at the primary stage (Classes I—V), 52.3% at the elementary stage (Classes I—Vill) and 62.7% at the secondary stage (Classes I—X).

(c) According to the available estimates, 20.4% of the students entering school in class I were enrolled in Class XII in 2003-04. This figure does not include the number of students opting for variotis technical, vocational and distance education courses after class VIII.

Percentage of school students admitted in higher education

† 420. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

WW the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.